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Translation

PCT/JP2003/010417

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT 10/511303

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PA0130WO	**FOR FURTHER ACTION**	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/JP2003/010417	International filing date (*day/month/year*) 19 August 2003 (19.08.2003)	Priority date (*day/month/year*) 07 October 2002 (07.10.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B62D 1/19, B60R 21/05		
Applicant TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 10 October 2003 (10.10.2003)	Date of completion of this report 20 January 2004 (20.01.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP Facsimile No.	Authorized officer Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP2003/010417

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application:*

☒ the international application as originally filed

☐ the description:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____
☐ the claims, Nos. _____
☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* *Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).*

** *Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.*

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP03/10417

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 23	YES
	Claims	1-10, 12, 15, 18-22, 24, 25	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claim	11	YES
	Claims	1-10, 12-25	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-25	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

The inventions of claims 1-7, 10, 12, 15, 19-22 and 24 do not appear to be novel based on document 1 [JP, 2002-67979, A (NSK, Ltd.), March 8, 2002 (03.08.02) (Family: none)].

Document 1 (paragraphs 0020-0034) discloses a steering column device comprising collision energy absorbing means identical to the invention of the present application.

Also, document 1 (paragraph 0034) suggests a variety of variations on an energy absorbing mechanism (claim 10 etc.).

Document 2 [JP, 2002-67978, A (NSK, Ltd.), March 8, 2002 (03.08.02) (Family: none)] and document 3 [JP, 2002-67980, A (NSK, Ltd.), March 8, 2002 (03.08.02), Full text & US, 2002/11724, A] also disclose the identical technology.

The inventions of claims 8, 9, 18 and 25 do not appear to be novel based on document 4 [JP, 2002-284017, A (NSK, Ltd), October 3, 2002 (10.03.02) (Family: none)].

Document 4 (paragraphs 0013-0028, etc.) discloses a steering column device comprising collision energy absorbing means identical to the invention of the present application.

The inventions of claims 13, 14, 16 and 17 do not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 1 through 4. What input condition will cause a change in the load of an energy absorbing mechanism is a matter a party skilled in the art could accordingly design in consideration of safety.

The invention of claim 23 does not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 1 through 4. It is found that in the above documents as well tilt displacement is possible at the time of secondary collision energy. Further, a mechanism to absorb energy by tilt displacement is a conventionally well-known art [see for example, JP, 11-129915, A (Hino Motors, Ltd.), May 18, 1999 (05.18.99) (Family: none), and JP, 8-175401, A (Hino Motors, Ltd.), July 9, 1996 (07.09.99) (Family: none), etc.].